



## Minnesota Ag News – Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

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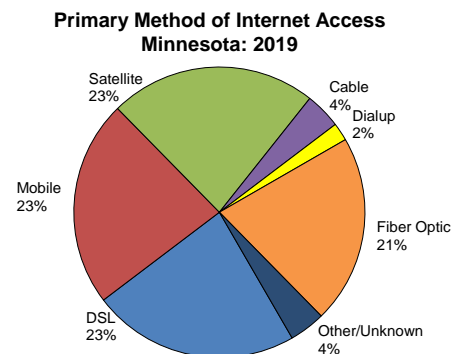
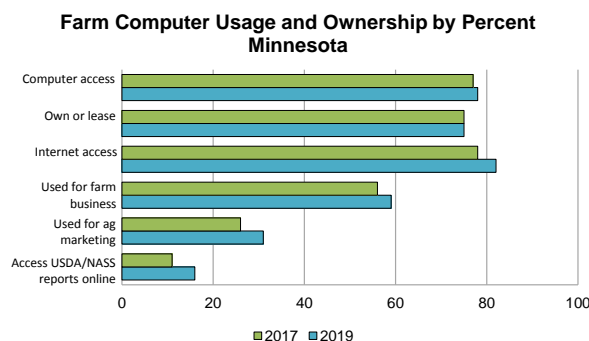
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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Seventy-five percent of Minnesota farms own or lease a computer, 6 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* report. Seventy-eight percent of Minnesota farms report having access to a computer, up 1 percentage point from 2017. Farms using computers for their farm business increased to 59 percent, 10 percentage points above the national percentage, which rose to 49 percent.

Eighty-two percent of Minnesota farms have Internet access, up 4 percentage points from 2017. The most common methods of accessing the internet are DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), mobile, and satellite connections, with 23 percent of Minnesota farms with access to the Internet utilizing each DSL, mobile, and satellite. Mobile connection had the largest increase, up 4 percentage points from 2017. DSL, the most common method of access in 2017, declined two percentage points from 2017.



### Farm Computer Usage and Ownership – Minnesota and United States: 2017 and 2019

Farms	Minnesota		United States	
	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)
With desktop or laptop computer access .....	77	78	72	73
Own or lease desktop or laptop computers .....	75	75	68	69
Use desktop or laptop computers for farm business .....	56	59	48	49
Use smart phones or tablets for farm business .....	49	59	44	52
With Internet access .....	78	82	73	75
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet .....	23	27	24	24
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet .....	26	31	19	19
Access USDA NASS reports over Internet .....	11	16	11	12
Access other USDA reports/services over Internet .....	20	25	19	20
Access other federal government websites over Internet .....	19	22	20	21
Conduct business with any USDA website .....	11	14	9	11
Conduct business with any other federal government website .....	10	9	9	9
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website .....	58	62	50	53
Primary method of Internet access				
Dialup .....	2	2	3	3
DSL .....	25	23	28	22
Cable .....	7	4	16	16
Fiber optic .....	23	21	9	12
Mobile .....	19	23	19	18
Satellite .....	20	23	23	26
Other/Unknown .....	4	4	2	3

## UNITED STATES

General computer usage and internet access categories increased from 2017 to 2019 in the United States. Nationally, 75 percent of farms reported having access to the internet, with 73 percent of farms having access to a desktop or laptop computer. Farms that used a desktop or laptop computer to conduct farm business was up 1 percent from 2017. Over half of the farms in the United States used a smart phone or tablet to conduct farm business, compared to 44 percent in 2017.

In 2019, 26 percent of farms used satellite and 22 percent of farms used a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) to access the internet. Since 2017, Satellite and DSL continue to be the most popular choices that United States farms use to access the internet.